

# OPEN MEETING AGENDA ITEM



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March 26, 2012

Chairman Gary Pierce

Commissioners Bob Stump, Paul Newman, Sandra Kennedy, and Brenda Burns

Arizona Corporation Commission

1200 W. Washington Street

Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Arizona Corporation Commission

**DOCKETED**

MAR 27 2012

DOCKETED BY

*[Signature]*

**Re: Consumer Comments in support of Arizona Public Service Company's Energy Efficiency Programs and Program Budgets, Docket No. E-01345A-11-0232**

Dear Chairman Pierce and Commissioners:

I am submitting written public comments on the proposed Arizona Public Service (APS) 2012 Renewable Energy Standard and Tariff on behalf of the Sierra Club's Grand Canyon (Arizona) Chapter and our 12,000 members, many of whom are APS customers.

The Sierra Club's mission is "to explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the earth; to practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources; and to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environments." The Sierra Club and our members have a significant interest in this plan as promoting energy efficiency is a top priority for our chapter and for our organization overall.

The Sierra Club is supportive of the energy efficiency programs and measures found to be cost effective by Staff in this proposed plan. These programs will help save customers money, plus reduce environmental impacts by saving energy use and thus reducing water use and pollution. Energy efficiency is a critical component of moving toward a truly sustainable energy system. The programs in the plan will help the company meet its responsibilities under the Energy Efficiency Standard as well, achieving savings of 1.75% of retail sales.

Energy savings will be realized by APS customers for existing homes via the Home Performance with ENERGY STAR<sup>®</sup> program, plus provide flexibility and promote greater innovation and creativity. Renters will benefit and have more opportunities to save via the proposed modifications and additions to the Multi-Family Energy Efficiency Program, plus there is an incentive for improved efficiency for those who construct multi-family dwellings.

We are also pleased to see the proposed Energy Codes and Standards Support Project included in this plan. This can help address barriers to building energy code adoption and provide enormous benefits to our communities and to ratepayers. Ensuring more energy efficiency construction up front is one of the biggest cost effective measures we can take to reduce future energy consumption.

The programs that target non-residential customers including LED lighting measures and energy management systems will give businesses and schools more opportunities to conserve energy as well. The shade tree programs help ratepayers reduce their electric bills and make our communities more livable and the reduction in funding will not compromise the program to a point where it cannot be implemented. We are supportive of these programs.


We do not support any exemptions from the energy efficiency standard and the associate surcharge for large electricity users, such as the mines. The mining companies should be good members of our communities and do their part to promote energy efficiency in our state.

Finally, we strongly support APS maintaining a commitment to low income programs, which help individuals and families who are struggling the most and are most affected by the current economy.

In summary, we ask that you approve a strong EE Implementation Plan for APS, that you maintain the commitment to EE programs as recommended by staff, and that you adopt a plan that demonstrates that APS can meet its commitments/requirements under Arizona's Energy Efficiency Standard.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,



Sandy Bahr

Chapter Director

Sierra Club – Grand Canyon Chapter